

February, 2006

Mr. John L. Margowski, Director

27th NATIONAL VETERANS WHEELCHAIR GAMES IN MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

June 19-23, 2007

- **Presenters** – The National Veterans Wheelchair Games are presented each year by the Department Of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Paralyzed Veterans of American (PVA), with additional support from numerous corporate and community sponsors.
- **Hosts** – The Milwaukee VA Medical Center and the Wisconsin Chapter of PVA are hosting the 2007 National Veterans Wheelchair Games. The events take place in and around the Milwaukee area, June 19-23, 2007.
- **Welcome to Milwaukee** – We are honored to support and welcome more than 500 veterans with disabilities from across the United States, Puerto Rico and Great Britain to our city, to compete in the 27th National Veterans Wheelchair Games – the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world!
- **Site Selection** – Each year VA and PVA jointly select the site for the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, based on availability of sports venues, accessibility of the city and local interest. At each host site, a local organizing committee works closely with national VA and PVA officials to ensure the success of the Games. As a premier sports city, excellent accommodations and numerous areas of visitor interest, the athletes are looking forward to experiencing a week of Milwaukee's finest.
- **Coordinator** – **Brian Walker** is the Local Coordinator for this event. He can be reached at (414) 389-4009, or by e-mail at brian.walker@va.gov.
- **Competition/Venues** – Many of the 2007 events will be held at the Midwest Airlines Convention Center in downtown Milwaukee as well as other local venues including Veterans Park, Grant Park, Whitnall Park, Schroeder YMCA, AMF Bowlero Bowling Center and the Milwaukee County Zoo. At the games veterans can compete in:
 - **Track** (100-3000 meters)
 - **Field** (discus, shot-put, javelin, club)
 - **Swimming**
 - **Basketball**
 - **Weightlifting**
 - **Softball**
 - **Air Guns**
 - **Quad Rugby**
 - **Bowling**
 - **9-Ball**
 - **Table Tennis**
 - **Archery**
 - **Power Soccer**
 - **Wheelchair Slalom** (obstacle course)
 - **Handcycling**
 - **Motorized Wheelchair Rally**
 - **Exhibition events**

- **Eligibility** – The Games are a multi-event sports and rehabilitation program open to military service veterans who use wheelchairs for sports competition due to spinal cord injuries, certain neurological conditions, amputations or other mobility impairments.
- **Volunteers** – To accommodate the needs of the athletes, more than 2,000 local volunteers are required to assist with all aspects of the Games, from helping with transportation, to event set-up, water distribution, assistance with meals, and numerous other activities that will help guarantee a successful event. If you are interested in volunteering please call Denise Jashinsky at (414) 384-2000, ext. 41803, or e-mail denise.jashinsky@va.gov.
- **Fundraising** – To make this event happen, the local hosts are hoping to raise substantial monetary donations to offset the cost of the Games and to treat our nation's wheelchair athletes to a quality week in Milwaukee.
- **Benefits – to the mind:** The purpose of the National Veterans Wheelchair Games is to provide veterans with physical disabilities an introductory experience to a variety of wheelchair sports, and expose them to the numerous organized wheelchair sports and recreation activities available nationwide. In doing so, the Games serve to encourage veterans to become aware of their abilities and potential while promoting a spirit of healthy activity and camaraderie.
- **Benefits – to the body:** The national Veterans Wheelchair Games clearly demonstrate the therapeutic value of sports and competition. As presenters of the event, VA and PVA are committed to improving the quality of life for veterans with disabilities and fostering better health through sports competition. While past Games have produced a number of national and world-class champions, the event also provides opportunities for newly injured veterans to gain sports skills and be exposed to other wheelchair athletes.
- **Benefits – to the spirit:** Since the annual Games began in 1981, thousands of disabled veterans have enjoyed the health benefits provided in sports participation, and have revitalized the spirit of competition within themselves.

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For more information about the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, visit the event web site at www.wheelchairgames.org.